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The Friday Letter

Vol. 10 No. 7

April 14, 1989

On the Hill



1990 FNS Budget Hearings are Complete

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, Senate Appropriations Committee, held a hearing on the FNS and HNIS fiscal year 1990 budget request on March 16. With the completion of the hearings of the corresponding House subcommittee on April 5, formal testimony on the FNS/HNIS 1990 budget is complete.

The hearings were held jointly with HNIS, and increased congressional interest concerning nutritional adequacy and dietary impacts was apparent. Several questions on the dietary guidelines, dietary survey, and nutritional quality of American diets were directed to HNIS. Related questions to FNS concerned implementation of the dietary guidelines recommendations in the food assistance programs.

The committees must now produce individual bills for passage by their respective bodies, resolve any differences in conference, and send a bill to the President.

-Story by Ken Bresnahan
Budget Division

20th Anniversary Update: Logo Design Contest

As you know, FNS celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. Alberta Frost, chairperson, and the planning committee are busily organizing several exciting

events to commemorate our 20 years of public service.

Every FNS employee will shortly be receiving a notice launching the celebration's first activity, a logo design contest. The winning symbol will appear on T-shirts, which will be for sale in time for the picnic and other summer fun.

We'll pass other plans along as they crystalize. In the meantime, be thinking about a 20th Anniversary design.

National WIC Conference Held in Washington

The National Association of WIC Directors (NAWD) held its sixth annual national conference February 8-11 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The meeting, with the theme "Shaping Our Future," was attended by about 400 members of the WIC community at the Federal, state, and local levels. As in past years, the meeting was a combination of plenary sessions, Congressional hearings, and workshops on program issues.

Keynote speeches were delivered by Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida on the work of the U.S. Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality; Dr. Victor Sidel, an Albert Einstein College of Medicine professor, on "Hunger: A Rip in the Fabric of Public Health"; and Dr. Ira Chasnoff, a nationally recognized expert on prenatal



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MPRO Hosts Regional FDP Conference

State directors of commodity programs in the 10 MPRO states met in Denver to review the current and future commodity situation as it affects their programs.

Opening remarks by Regional Administrator David Alspach, Civil Rights/EEO Director Evelyn Stafford, Nutritionist Esther Eicher, Assistant Regional Administrator Brian



Allison, and Public Affairs Director Craig Forman led into sessions on the Hunger Prevention Act, its Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program applications, and the status of regulations emerging from the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987.

Food Distribution Programs (FDP) staff discussed semiannual data collection, the Buy America provision, commodity

specifications and value, and the variety to be offered. A summary of the first National Advisory Council meeting was presented by Dave Seger of the headquarters FDP staff.

A review of the two pilot food bank demonstration projects in the region—in Iowa and Missouri—updated other states on this new venture. A workshop on processing included discussion of contract monitoring, grading requirements, product testing, delayed refund payment, and the alternate value pass-through system.

Other proposed regulations under discussion included commercial warehousing and delivery systems, mandatory criteria for establishing service fees, minimum performance standards for distributing agencies, and entitlement monitoring. Audit and reporting requirements were covered by Jim Sattler of Financial Management, and a side-by-side comparison was made of 250 regulations that took effect July 5, 1988.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

(Conference Continued)

drug addiction, on the effects of drug use on birth outcome.

FNS sponsored Chashoff's participation as part of WIC's new mission under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act to increase awareness among WIC participants about the impact of drug use.

Ron Vogel, director of the Supplemental Food Programs Division, also presented FNS' perspective on the future of WIC. FNS staff presented several workshops covering vendor regulations, rebate conversion, research methodology, breastfeeding promotion, and Federal drug abuse prevention grants.

NAWD also used the meeting as an opportunity to present its legislative platform to Congress in anticipation of

WIC's reauthorization in 1990. The proposal focuses on simplifying the WIC administrative funding process, including the funds conversion process associated with cost containment initiatives.

FNS WIC program directors and WIC nutritionists also held meetings during the week.

-Story by Barbara Hallman
Supplemental Food Programs Division

ACE-OI Hold Annual Workshop

The D.C. Region of the Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE) and the USDA's Office of Information (OI) will sponsor their 12th annual communications

(ACE-OI Continued Last Page)

Regional Offices Celebrate Black History Month

To honor the achievement and memory of black Americans, this year's theme was "The Role of Afro-American Churches in Economic, Political, and Social Development at Home and Abroad."

SWRO

"Roots 2000" was the title chosen by Don Arnette, SWRO Black Employment Program manager, for his 2-hour celebration of Afro-American/Black History Month in Dallas.

The special event of the session was a stirring, upbeat presentation by the internationally known speaker and author, Dr. Earl E. Cleveland of Huntsville, Alabama. Cleveland spoke with authority on the history of the black race, sometimes correlating black American history with biblical events, and always adding a dash of humor. In his 47 years as an evangelist, Cleveland has preached on 6 continents, written 14 books, and trained over 1,100 ministers.

In addition to Cleveland's talk, SWRO employees and guests were inspired by a student's poetry and by a medley of black heritage songs which, when sung during the days of slavery, often carried double meanings to the listeners.

SWRO Deputy Administrator Mike Montgomery opened the observance with some welcoming remarks, and regional Civil Rights Director Ola Moore made the closing remarks.

-Story by Blanche Jackson
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

WRO

The program speakers for WRO's lecture series included two black historians, a Presbyterian pastor, and a field representative of the Bay Area Urban League. Also presented were a slide show of West Africa and films on African and American religion.

A discussion of the church's historical role in community development, by the Reverend Dr. Hanibal Williams,

culminated and integrated the presentations of the 4-day series. Williams emphasized the appeal of christianity, with its allegories such as Moses leading his people out of slavery, to the then black community. That appeal is still strong in modern America, Williams said, where many black people remain enslaved by drugs and poverty.



Glenn Nance, Chairman of the Department of History, San Francisco City College, explains the use of a traditional mask from West Africa.

-Story and photo by Kristen Boyle
WRO Public Affairs Staff

SERO

Beginning SERO's activities was a videotape called "Sweet Auburn," which depicted the history and evolution of the Auburn Avenue district in Atlanta, Georgia, and its impact on the development of black business in the city.

The next presentation featured Dr. Emmanuel McCall, director of the Baptist Home Mission Board's Black Church Extension Division. McCall gave a fascinating insight into the history of the black church and how this gave rise to institutions of higher learning supported by the churches. McCall donated a copy of the book, Black Church Life Styles, to the SERO library and dedicated it to Regional Administrator Virgil Conrad. Committee chairman Louis Mathis presented a certificate of appreciation to McCall.

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The final activity was a bus tour of historical points of interest in the downtown Atlanta area. The last site was the historic Bethel A.M.E. Church, where employees met Bishop John Adams (right) who spoke on the historic and future effect of the church in minority affairs. Also standing are SERO EEO/CR Coordinator Haynes Pressley (left) and SERO Field Operations Director Louis Mathis (center).



-Story and photo by
SERO Public Affairs Staff

MARO

Writing, acting, music, and painting were featured during MARO's program.

Jimmie Lucas, an ASCS employee, recites Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I Had A Dream" speech, after which he received a standing ovation for his excellent performance.



Artist and clothing designer Ladybird Strickland (left) describes to Jim Kay, personnel officer, and Ruth Dorion, SNP secretary, the content of her detailed civil rights movement display.



Willie Mae Ryles, an employee with OPM in New York City, read to MAROns some of the uplifting poems from her published book "Ode to Living," which captures one woman's reflections on life. She recited verses on devotion and love, with warmth and conviction.

The musical group, "Chosen," gave the final performance. The seven accomplished entertainers from the local area sang spiritual songs and imparted a brief history of gospel music and its importance in black culture.

-Story and photos by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

MPRO

At MPRO's opening session, Regional Administrator David Alspach spoke briefly, followed by keynote speaker Evelyn Hu-Dehart, director of ethnicity studies at the University of Colorado.

Tony Perkins, director of The Youth Challenge, spoke to an MPRO Black History Month audience about the efforts being made to combat drugs and gangs.



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MPRO Black Employment Program Manager Maurice Wade (left) and Sylvia Cordy, president of Cordy Company, who spoke about stereotyping and showed excerpts from a videotape. Another videotape, "I Remember Harlem," documented the history of Harlem from its origins through the present.



Tamika Salis, a local high school senior, read a poem about the evils of cocaine at MPRO's Black History Month presentation by Be Against Drugs (BAD).

-Story and photos by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

SWRO WIC State Directors Meet on Rebate Conversion

SWRO Supplemental and Indian Food Programs staff hosted a meeting of WIC state directors to discuss FNS infant formula rebate conversion methodology. Ron Vogel, director of Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD), and Debby Whitford, SFPD food program specialist, led the 1-day workshop.



Debby Whitford (SFPD) speaks to SWRO WIC state directors. In her audience are, left to right, Bethann Vilmar and Bettie Pena (SWRO budget analysts) and Chuck Tercero (SWRO Supplemental and Indian Food Programs director).

The state directors had come to the workshop thinking the projected participation increase resulting from their rebates would require more administrative funds than the conversion methodology would allow. After the presentation by SFPD representatives, the directors had a better understanding of how rebates affect participation increases and the administrative funds needed to support the increased participation. Areas covered included first-year and transition-year conversion calculations and adjusting for caseload mix changes.

-Story by Blanche Jackson
Photo by Judy Snow
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Supv. Public Affairs Specialist	(FNS-N)	GM-1035	13	04/17/89	89-85	OGAPI
o Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GS-0345	12/13	04/18/89	89-93	ORO
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-318	5/6	04/24/89	89-97	PED
o Personnel Mgmt. Specialist	(G)	GS-201	7/9	04/24/89	89-98	PED
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	12/13	05/08/89	89-H-99	HNIS
o Survy Home Economist	(HNIS)	GS-493	14	04/17/89	89-H-100	HNIS
o Computer Programmer	(HNIS)	GS-0334	12	04/19/89	89-H-101	HNIS
o Food Program Officer	(FNS-N)	GM-0120	14	05/01/89	89-102	SERO
o Systems Accountant	(G)	GS-0510	13	05/01/89	89-104	ACD
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	4/5/6	05/08/89	89-106	SFPD
o Management Analyst	(G)	GS-0343	5/7	05/08/89	89-107	IRMD
o Management Analyst	(A)	GS-0343	7	05/08/89	89-107A	IRMD

Office Location

PED - Personnel Division
 ORO - Office of Regional Operations
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 IRMD - Information Resources Management Division
 ACD - Accounting Division
 OGAPI - Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information
 SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs Division
 SERO - Southeast Regional Office (Atlanta, GA)

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition Information Service
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service (Nationwide)

Remember Our Secretaries!

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**National Secretaries Week
is April 24-28.**

(ACE-OI Continued)

workshop of May 18-19 at the Washington Plaza Hotel.

The \$75 registration form, along with an SF-182 Training Form, must be received by May 12. For more information, contact Linda Boling at 756-3000.